What is claimed:

1. A computer readable recording medium recorded with a diagnosis supporting program for realizing on a computer:

a lesion position detecting function for detecting a lesion position from a diagnosis target image;

a feature quantity extracting function for extracting image-wise feature quantities of the lesion position detected by said lesion position detecting function; and

a reference image retrieving function for retrieving reference images which are image-wise similar to the diagnosis target image out of a database stored with reference images and feature quantities of reference images, based on the feature quantities extracted by said feature quantity extracting function.

2. A computer readable recording medium recorded with a diagnosis supporting program of claim 1, further comprising:

a database registering function for registering said diagnosis target image and feature quantities thereof into said database.

3. A computer readable recording medium recorded with a diagnosis supporting program of claim 1, further comprising:

a similarity calculating function for calculating image-wise similarities between each of the reference images stored in said database and the diagnosis target image, respectively, by matching the feature quantities of each of the reference images stored in said database with the feature quantities of the diagnosis target image,

wherein said reference image retrieving function retrieves reference images in order of similarity as calculated by said similarity calculating function.

4. A computer readable recording medium recorded with a diagnosis supporting program of claim 3,

wherein said similarity calculating function calculates similarities, taking account of the weighting set for each organ.

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5.   A computer readable recording medium recorded with a diagnosis supporting program of claim 4,

wherein said weighting is set in a variably constituted table.

6.   A computer readable recording medium recorded with a diagnosis supporting program of claim 1, further comprising:

a finding displaying function for displaying findings related to the reference images retrieved by said reference image retrieving function.

7.   A computer readable recording medium recorded with a diagnosis supporting program of claim 1,

wherein said lesion position detecting function detects a lesion position of a designated organ.

8.   A computer readable recording medium recorded with a diagnosis supporting program of claim 1,

wherein said feature quantity extracting function extracts a global feature quantity, a topical feature quantity and a common feature quantity, for every lesion position of the diagnosis target image.

9.   A diagnosis supporting apparatus comprising:

a lesion position detecting means for detecting a lesion position from a diagnosis target image;

a feature quantity extracting means for extracting image-wise feature quantities of the lesion position detected by said lesion position detecting means; and

a reference image retrieving means for retrieving reference images which are image-wise similar to the diagnosis target image out of a database stored with reference images and feature quantities of reference images, based on the feature quantities extracted by said feature quantity extracting means.

10.   A diagnosis supporting apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:

a database registering means for registering said diagnosis target image and feature quantities thereof into said database.

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11.   A diagnosis supporting apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:

a similarity calculating means for calculating image-wise
similarities between each of the reference images stored in said
database and the diagnosis target image, respectively, by matching the
feature quantities of each of the reference images stored in said
database with the feature quantities of the diagnosis target image,

wherein said reference image retrieving means retrieves
reference images in order of similarity as calculated by said similarity
calculating means.

12.   A diagnosis supporting apparatus of claim 11,

wherein said similarity calculating means calculates similarities,
taking account of the weighting set for each organ.

13.   A diagnosis supporting apparatus of claim 12,

wherein said weighting is set in a variably constituted table.

14.   A diagnosis supporting apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:

a finding displaying means for displaying findings related to the
reference images retrieved by said reference image retrieving means.

15.   A diagnosis supporting apparatus of claim 9,

wherein said lesion position detecting means detects a lesion
position of a designated organ.

16.   A diagnosis supporting apparatus of claim 9,

wherein said feature quantity extracting means extracts a global
feature quantity, a topical feature quantity and a common feature
quantity, for every lesion position of the diagnosis target image.

17.   A diagnosis supporting method comprising:

a lesion position detecting process for detecting a lesion position
from a diagnosis target image;

a feature quantity extracting process for extracting image-wise
feature quantities of the lesion position detected by said lesion position

detecting process; and

a reference image retrieving process for retrieving reference images which are image-wise similar to the diagnosis target image out of a database stored with reference images and feature quantities of reference images, based on the feature quantities extracted by said feature quantity extracting process.

18. A diagnosis supporting method of claim 17, further comprising:

a database registering process for registering said diagnosis target image and feature quantities thereof into said database.

19. A diagnosis supporting method of claim 17, further comprising:

a similarity calculating process for calculating image-wise similarities between each of the reference images stored in said database and the diagnosis target image, respectively, by matching the feature quantities of each of the reference images stored in said database with the feature quantities of the diagnosis target image,

wherein said reference image retrieving process retrieves reference images in order of similarity as calculated by said similarity calculating process.

20. A diagnosis supporting method of claim 19,

wherein said similarity calculating process calculates similarities, taking account of the weighting set for each organ.

21. A diagnosis supporting method of claim 20,

wherein said weighting is set in a variably constituted table.

22. A diagnosis supporting method of claim 17, further comprising:

a finding displaying process for displaying findings related to the reference images retrieved by said reference image retrieving process.

23. A diagnosis supporting method of claim 17,

wherein said lesion position detecting process detects a lesion position of a designated organ.

24. A diagnosis supporting method of claim 17,

wherein said feature quantity extracting process extracts a global feature quantity, a topical feature quantity and a common feature quantity, for every lesion position of the diagnosis target image.